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will help effectively in winning the case of the people. Steffens always writes as a democrat, as one who believes that the people will come out all right in the end, although he is beginning to appreciate as he did not in the beginning, that they are likely to stumble "a bit" before reaching the end of the road, and that there is no one panacea for our ills, civic or social.

C. R. W.

*The American People. A Study in National Psychology.* By A. MAURICE Low. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1909. Pp. 446. \$2.25.)

This is another addition to the long list of studies of American life by foreigners. It is, however, based upon a more careful study and a greater familiarity with American history than most of such studies. The author says that it is the result of nine years of study and observation. Mr. Low, who has been since 1886 a contributor to English journals, on American affairs, has already published two studies of America, *Protection in the United States* (1904), and *American Life in Town and Country* (1905). *The American People* is written in the kindest and most sympathetic spirit, and with apparent effort to refrain from hasty or harsh criticism.

The author disclaims any attempt at original historical investigation. His purpose is to analyze material already at hand in order "to present certain historical facts in their just relation to psychological progress so as to show that the American people have not sprung from the air" but are the product of evolution.

Mr. Low's thesis is that America is something more than a geographical term; that it stands for a definite and peculiar national type; that the American people have certain well defined characteristics whose origin can be plainly described. These characteristics are: a passionate love of freedom and resistance to oppression; a dominant love of gain and devotion to commercialism, but withal a strong undercurrent of idealism; a lack of artistic interest and appreciation, due to material interests and to an absence of social inequality; a love of quantity, accompanied by a failure to measure values by any but a quantitative standard; excessive individualism.

The elements out of which this national type has been formed are (1) The English stock and English civilization which were transplanted in the colonies; (2) The new environment, calling for a fierce struggle with nature under new conditions; (3) The different stocks which have been amalgamated on American soil. Thus Americans are not Englishmen transplanted. Although it was England that furnished the material for the beginning, "with the permanency of settlement, the revolutionizing influences of struggle with natural conditions, and above all with a declared political independence of the British Crown, the bond with the old civilization snapped." "Thus a new and distinct racial psychology began in America."

The author's treatment of the influence of environment is decidedly uncritical. His quotations of Spencer, Darwin, and Buckle show a lack of acquaintance with later discussions of this subject. He does not distinguish the universally recognized influence of environment in determining the social life of a people indirectly through the type of industrial activity, from the direct influence on mental processes as set forth by Buckle.<sup>1</sup> His treatment, however, of the history of the colonies as determined by the physical environment is quite satisfactory, since he there follows the theory of indirect influence.

An uncritical attitude is also manifested in his treatment of heredity and amalgamation. Thus on page 56 we find: "The daughter of a Russian father and a Spanish mother will under normal conditions inherit some of the temperamental or climatic qualities." And on pages 90 and 91: "We see why the American comes naturally by his love of and aptitude for business. He is simply fulfilling the law of heredity . . . . the bent of the father's mind is transmitted."

When the author comes to the historical part of his study he seems to be on much surer footing. The larger part of this section is devoted to an appreciation of the Puritans and their contributions to American character, which he regards as the chief formative influence in the national life. Then follow accounts of the influences attending and resulting from the settlement of Virginia, Maryland, the Carolinas, Georgia, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York.

<sup>1</sup>See for example, pages 233 and 234.

As a critical analysis of national psychology the work leaves much to be desired. Its chief value lies in its lucid and careful interpretation of the character of the American colonists and the social influences that attended their settlement in America. It contains a bibliography of eleven pages.

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*The Romance of American Expansion.* By H. A. BRUCE. (New York: Moffat, Yard, and Company. 1909. Pp. xiii, 246. Price, \$1.75.)

The present volume is the tenth that the reviewer has seen since the Spanish war, dealing with the subject of territorial expansion. Mr. Bruce has not made any new contributions in this book, though he has presented the facts in a new way. He has connected the territorial growth of the country in each period with some notable participants. In this way the story of expansion is woven about the figures of Boone, Jefferson, Jackson, Houston, Benton, Fremont, Seward, and McKinley. The book is written in a fluent, attractive style, and is judicious and scholarly, though based almost exclusively on secondary sources. Naturally each of these dominating personalities becomes a hero, the warmest admiration being accorded McKinley, while even of Fremont only good is said. "Even the so-called spoliation of Mexico proves on close examination," says the author, "by no means so blameworthy as has generally been believed." As for the future, Mr. Bruce believes that the nation will do as it has done in the past—"reach out, extend, grow." The volume concludes with a good chapter on bibliography, and an excellent index.

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